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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Human Resources Development and Training in Trade-Supporting Services: Key to growth with special potential for LDCs
Geneva, 2-4 October 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services: key to growth with special potential for LDCs

4. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

GE.00-51837

II. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1 Election of officers

1. The Meeting should elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. A provisional schedule of the three-day meeting is attached to the present document. These have been drawn up with due regard to the mandate for the Meeting.

3. The UNCTAD Plan of Action (TD/386) was adopted at the tenth session of UNCTAD, held in Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000. Paragraph 159 of the Plan of Action says, *inter alia*, that "UNCTAD should play a role in providing information to enterprises and Governments regarding: (a) the linkages between human resource development (HRD) activities, particularly training, and the performance of enterprises; (b) long-term planning for HRD activities, coordination of training activities and collaboration or development of partnerships between enterprises; (c) formulation of HRD policies and strategies to be followed by developing countries". Further, paragraphs 162 and 163 of the Plan of Action, state respectively that "it is the responsibility of all divisions of the UNCTAD secretariat to ascertain that UNCTAD's activities take the needs of LDCs into account", and that "UNCTAD is called upon to prepare an integrated programme of action for technical assistance for LDCs".

4. In this context, the executive session of the Trade and Development Board decided on 12 May 2000 to convene an Expert Meeting, from 2 to 4 October 2000, on "Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services: key to growth with special potential for LDCs".

Item 3 Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services: key to growth with special potential for LDCs

(a) *HRD for growth*

5. Human resources development (HRD) has grown up empirically and is viewed and interpreted in various ways. A background document has been issued (TD/B/COM.3/EM.10/2) which participants should have read before the Meeting. Some issues will be highlighted at the start of the meeting and definitions and interpretations clarified.

6. The potential of HRD as a generator of trade, and thereby economic growth, is not fully appreciated, and discussions under this item should take stock of successful experience with HRD in the trade sector, and particularly for services to trade.

(b) *Making a success of HRD*

7. HRD must be applied within and as part of local society. It must be adapted to local conditions, and while it may be intended to change them it will also be constrained by the surrounding conditions. Discussions under this item should review the steps by which HRD brings benefits, the impediments that may exist locally and ways in which they can be overcome.

(c) *HRD in trade-supporting services*

8. The role of trade-supporting services has attained greater importance due to global trends of recent years. In some sub-sectors and countries there is already a structured approach to HRD. Discussions under this item should review and draw conclusions from current experience.

(d) *Training at the heart of development*

9. Training is at the heart of effective HRD. Discussion on this item should focus on successful experience with training, especially institution building to provide local training effectively through sharing of efforts, experience and progress among countries, and on new technology to enhance and widen the application of training. Special attention should be given to ways in which training can be extended and enhanced for LDCs, possibly by networking and the use of distance learning techniques, and ways in which the United Nations Organization can support efforts for the improvement of trade through training.

(e) *Focus on HRD for LDCs*

10. The Meeting will have reviewed the necessary environment for effective HRD and ways in which training can serve this environment as a motor for developing trade, and in particular for LDCs. Discussions under this item should reach conclusions on policy considerations and actions to be taken by countries to provide a healthy environment for HRD, and in particular in partnership with both public and private sector, among countries and with the United Nations, with a special view to measures that will benefit and enhance training programmes for LDCs.

Item 4 Adoption of the outcome of the meeting

11. The Meeting is expected to adopt recommendations that will be assessed by member States before being submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development in January 2001. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.10/2	Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services. A background paper.

Provisional schedule of the Meeting

Day 1 (2 October 2000)

0900	Open for registration
1000-1300	Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work HRD for growth
1500-1800	Making a success of HRD

Day 2 (3 October 2000)

1000-1300	HRD in trade-supporting services
1500-1800	Training at the heart of development

Day 3 (4 October 2000)

1000-1300	Focus on HRD for LDCs
1500-1800	Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting